Pleurs

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Newes from Italy.

OR,

A Prodigious and moſt lamentable Accident lately befallen:

Concerning the ſwallowing vp of the whole Citty of *Pleurs*, belonging vnto *the Signiory of* Venice, *which happened in the beginning of September laſt: by* a ſtrange and hidious ſhaking *and opening of the earth.*

Together with the loſſe of more then two thouſand people, and a generall *burning vp of the Trees and Foreſts within the territories of* the ſayd Citty.

Faithfully tranſlated out of the French Copy printed at Paris. 1618.

LONDON,
Printed by *N.O.* for *Nathaniell Newbery*, and *Iohn Pyper*. 1618.

A Prodigious and moſt lamentable accident, lately befallen the Citty of *Pleurs*, belonging to the *Signiorie of* Venice, *which happened in the begining of* September *laſt paſt.* 1618.

SVch is the prauity of our nature, that wee alwaies rather feel the ſmart of Gods diuine vengeance falling vpon vs then weigh the counſaels & purpoſe of his heart which hee aymeth at in the midſt of his wrath, puniſhing & correcting vs for our iuſt deſerts, by which we

haue conſtrained him to turne his mercie into iuſtice; his fauours and benefites into rods and ſcourges.

The effects whereof falling out daily before our eyes, in this behalfe, tend to none other end, but to rowze vs out of that lythargie of ſin into which wee be fallen, and to let out the ſwelling of our pride; that at the length wee may carefully aduiſe our ſelues, before our finall deſolation fall vpon our heads: But (alas) wee are ſo hood-winked and ſenſleſſe in the middeſt of this our miſery, that for want of a diſcerning eye, wee are ready to attribute all miſ-hap to ſecondary cauſes, and to extraordinary effects; rather then wiſely to bethink vs, in iudging that the root from whence all our euils ſpring, is from our ſelues.

From no other cauſe proceedeth all the caſualties which happen euery day in our ſight, but eſpecially of late yeares, as well by the laſt effects of fire, ayre, and water, as by other vnwonted accidents proceeding

ding from the elements, which God vſeth as his rods to afflict man withall.

We know that within a yeare or thereabouts, what hath hapned both in *France* and elſe-where, to the great aſtoniſhment of mortall men, who are but duſt & aſhes, & whereat indeede the greateſt wits haue ſtood amazed.

Spaine was at her wittes ende, in admiring that Deluge which befell in the Earledome of *Barcellonne*, with much ruine & loſſe in this very moneth & time of the yeare.

France it ſelfe hath had no cauſe to mocke at her neighbours harmes, but to bee wholly taken vp with feare, hauing ſeene the Lent laſt paſt, the wonderfull burning and conſumption of the pallace of her head City; the ſanctuary of the innocent, the terrour of the guilty, where the oracles of truth were euery day to be ueard by vncorrupt *Ariſtides*, inflexible in the cauſe of equity, and a iuſt conſeruer of right and reaſon.

But

But all this is but a little in reſpect of that which as we heare, hapned vpon the coũtries beloging to the Seigneurie of *Venice*, in the beginning of this preſent month of September, to the ruine & vtter loſſ of the Town or City of *Pleurs*: namely, that about that time the fourth or fift of this preſent month, happened vpon the territories of the ſaid Citty ſuch a fearefull & prodigious ſtorme, mingled with thundring and lightnings, with winde and tempeſt, that it ſeemed heauen and earth would haue gone together, and that the laſt times foretolde by *Daniel* were now inflicted there, and that which is worthie of greateſt wonder & aſtoniſhment, was an exceeding vehement winde encloſed and ſhut vppe within the bowels and hollowneſſe of the earth, with certaine fires burning vnder the ground which with their violent incountering each of other, with blaſts and counter blaſts, made ſuch a hideous noiſe within thoſe holes and harrowe places,

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wherewith the countrie vvas filled, that it cauſed a very ſtrange ſhaking or trembling of the earth, yea ſo fearefull, that the effects enſuing thereof are incredible: thence came the totall & deplorable loſſe of the ſayd Citty of *Pleurs*, ſomewhat greater and better peopled then is S. *Denis* in *France*: For the earth opening it ſelfe, by the vehemency of theſe fires vnder the ground, and the bluſterings of theſe vvindes encloſed within her bowels, and in ſeeking vent, that in this opening and trembling of the earth, the ſaid Citty was vvholly ſunke and ſwallowed vp, with all and euery one of the houſes and buildings, vvith the loſſe of more then two thouſand ſoules, crauing for mercy in ſo great, ſo ſudden, and vnexpected a calamity; and within the ſayd territory many trees, vvoodes, and forreſts, vvere ſome of them ouerthrowne by the vvindes, and otherſome vvere conſumed and burnt, as vvell by the fire of heauen, as by the flames iſſuing forth

and vomited from out of the bowels of the earth, vvhich ſtrucke ſuch an aſtoniſhment into the neighbour countries, that all fell to prayers, made publique & ſolemne proceſsions, taking it for a certaine forewarning of Gods mercy turned into fury, and for a ſure and vndoubted token that his anger is kindled againſt the ſonnes of men, ſeeking hereby to appeaſe him in the midſt of his iuſt conceiued diſpleaſure.

The

The former Relation more particularly ſet forth in an *Auiſo* of *the Lords of the States of Heluetia* and the *Griſons*.

Faithfully Tranſlated according to the *Copy printed at* Millain. 1618.

THe effects of Nature are of ſo deepe cõprehenſion, as the moſt ſubtile Philoſophers haue loſt themſelues in the admiration thereof. The flowing and ebbe of an *Eurypus*

made him loſe all his reaſon, vvho laboured to ſettle the principles & groũds thereof, and he vvho ſo ſearched into the courſe and originall of it, returned from thence aſtoniſhed vvith wonder, and beſotted with ignorance. In briefe her ſecrets are ſo darke and hidden, as mortall eyes can make no diſcouery thereof: God the authour of Nature, reſeruiug as a particular to himſelfe the knowledge of thoſe myſteries, with a barre to all others to enter into them: and if man can chalenge to himſelfe any little taſte thereof, hee hath it by purchaſe from that great diſtributer of knowledge, and with the price of paines and trauels innumerable. *Dij laboribus omnia vendunt.*

The accident which happened in freſh memory, about a moneth ſince, in a certaine Towne called *Plcurs*, ſubiect to the State of the *Griſons*, a people confining with the territory of *Millaine*, and with *Swizerland*, cannot but beget in vs both aſtoniſhment and admiration together:

aſto-

aſtoniſhment for the ſtrangenſſe, admiration, in that we are not able to cõprehend the cauſe and ground thereof. This is the fable of remouing mountaines, and heaping one vpon the top of another by *Ouids Gyants*, to ſtall heauen withall: but a true fact, vvhich as it made the earth to tremble, ſo may it doe the hearts of the moſt couragious men, and make them ſhake, by ſhaking things to all mens thoughts immoueable: ſo as now we can ground no firme aſſurance vpon Rocks: and change raigneth by courſe ouer all things. This Towne of *Pleurs* aboue named, ſeated vpon the land, and amongſt the people of the *Griſons*, is ſubiect for the temporalties, vnto the Lords of that State: and for the Spiritualties, in as much as it is vvholly Popiſh (excepting onely three or foure houſes) it is vnder the iuriſdiction of the Biſhoppe of *Como*. It is rich, well peopled, famous for trade, the Churches (vvell recommended for their building, rich ornaments and treaſure)

ſure) ſeeme ſufficiently to witneſſe the piety of that people. One of them was conſecrate vnder the name of Saint *Iohn* of *Silan*, and the other more renowned then that by the name of Saint *Caſsian*.

The particulars as well of this countrie as of this Towne, which are not indeede of our diſcourſe, cannot but bee tedious to the Reader, who attends with impatience the newes of a caſe ſo ſtrange as this is. This Towne is in a valley vnder the mountaine *Chrouena*, in neere neighbour-hood, and not aboue the diſtance of two leagues from the confines of *Millaine*: and of like neareneſſe to the Port of *Tuentes*, ſtanding vpon the bank of the Lake of *Como*, where paſſeth the Riuer of *Mora*, which Riuer although it carry a ſtrong and violent current, yet cannot it not in any reaſon be preſumed to haue beene the cauſe of this ruine whereof wee are to ſpeake. Nature had fortified this towne, and immued it as it were betwixt two Mountaines, the one

whereof

whereof was ſingularly fertile in Winter, and other fruits of the earth making her appeare with another countenance, then of a hideous Rocke: which could promiſe no pleaſure nor delight, but of ſuch a Hill as ſuppilyed the inhabitants with infinite cõmodoties, vnder ground caues, and gardens, ſtore-houſes, and other cõmodious places, which they found within the boſome of this Mountaine, with all ſorts of pleaſures, delights, and delicates. This other Hill which is aboue *Silano*, and beyond the Riuer, is ſomewhat more diſtant from the Towne, which it ſeemeth Nature had purpoſely remoued from the ſame, leſt it might (perhaps) too much ſhadow and obſcure it, that the great multitude of trees wherwith this Hill was repleniſhed, being of it ſelfe higher, & ſteeper then the former, and yet bearing (notwithſtanding the ſteepeneſſe) both hay and wood, for the ſupply of this Towne. Cloſe to this Mountaine there ſtood another, much higher

higher then the ſame, and wholly barren and deſerted: a fatall Hill, and deſtined to the ruine of this miſerable Towne, & all her inhabitants.

The fourth day of this inſtant month of September this great and ſteepe Hill was ſhaken either by ſome vvindes vnder the ground, or by ſome ſecret tempeſt which nature raiſed from vvithin her bowels: in ſuch ſort as about ſixe a clocke in the Euening, that vvhich ſeemed to be vnmoueable, vvas ſeene in a ſhort ſpace to be pulled vp by the roots, and borne away by the fury of the winds. A ſtrange caſe, there neuer haning beene ſeene ſo great & fearfull an Earth-quake. This Mountaine then being ſhaken with this fury, fell with ſuch violence vpon that vnhappy Towne, as it buried both it and all the inhabitants together. It was about ſupper-time, at what time the moſt part of the Townef-men were ſet at table, when they found themſelues ouer-whelmed with theſe ſo mighty ruines, vnder

which

vvhich at an inſtant they gaue vppe the ghoſt. Scarcely was any man exempted, for of three thouſand ſixe hundred perſons, which at that time were reckoned to be in the towne, there eſcaped onely foure, of vvhom wee will ſpeake more particularly hereafter. The loſſe of goods vvas exceeding great, inaſmuch as the eſteemate thereof paſſeth three Millions of golde. The rage and tempeſtuous force of the windes was ſo outragious, as they that vvere in the fieldes felt themſelues thereby tranſported into places vvholly vnknowne. The Lord *Laurence Scandolera* reporteth that being in a garden of his with his Niece, hee was borne by the violence of that tempeſt aboue and beyond the Riuer: and he was found on a little hill called *Ronco*, hauing a napkin at his ſhoulder, and his legges broken off. In the ſame place vvere likewiſe found the little Bells of Saint *Maries* Church, borne by the like violence out of the ſteeple to that place, being halfe a league

from the ſaid Church. To conclude, this bourning was ſo terrible, and the bruite ſpread ſo farre, that all the neighbouring countries preſently took the cry, & ſtood affrighted with the horror thereof.

The people comming a little to themſelues, ranne to beholde this ſpectacle, vvhere inſteede of finding a Towne in the valley before mentioned, they found a high and fearfull Mountaine, hauing within his entrals ſwallowed the vvhole company of his poore inhabitants, no man eſcaping ſaue onely foure as were ſaid, whom wee will name in particular, to giue more aſſurance to the truth of the fact.

A Mother there deſirous to ſaue her childe, loſt her legges, yet could not recouer him whom ſhee held deareſt in the world. A young man called *Francis Torno*, who was gone downe into one of the vaults vnder ground (which before wee mentioned, and deſcribed in the firſt Mountaine) to drawe wine: Another

young

young fellowe, who a little before was gone to a vineyard on the ſame Mountaine to gather Peaches: And the fourth was the Lord *Scandolera*, of whom wee before recounted that miraculous ſtory.

The Riuer *Mora*, which watred all this valley, hath thereby loſt his naturall and ordinary current, and hath beene enforced to recouer his courſe more then halfe a league from the place. This is the ſumme of what happened in the places afore ſaide, being in truth a wonder vnmatchable in any age.

The deeps below, and fire aboue, hold ſome extraordinary power of Nature, but to ſee Mountaines remoue, and change their places, we muſt intruth auouch that this thing is ſo high, and the cauſes ſo hidden, as humaine wit cannot pierce into the depth of theſe profound myſteries. To make Nature ſo potent, as to giue occaſion for the world to thinke, that this accident proceeded from the force of the windes, which perhappes were ſhut vp

within the wombe of the earth, and there had intermixed with some encloſed fire, which hauing vndermined this Mountaine, did in ſuch ſort ouerturne it, vvere to attribute vnto Nature too much force and ſtrenght. To call to remembrance another *Sodome*, wherof this is the image, the colours only excepted, I meane the forme of their deſtruction: to aſcribe this calamity to the iudgement of God, were to partake with the ſecrets of the higheſt, and as companions to his throne, to giue ſentence againſt his people. Therefore ſuſpending our iudgements, let vs humble our ſelues before God, leaſt the like thing happen to vs.

FINIS.